

**SYMPTOMS IN DIAGNOSIS.** By Jonathan Campbell Meakins, C.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., formerly Professor of Medicine and Director of the Department of Medicine, McGill University. Illustrated. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1948. \$7.50.

This is a concise, usable book written from the clinical point of view. It is not encyclopedic, but can serve well as a reference book because of its practical character. It emphasizes the too frequently overlooked fact that symptomatology may be of greater importance in the investigation of the average case than physical examination or laboratory findings.

There are inevitable drawbacks to a text limited to the extent that this one is: Interpretations of certain symptoms are developed to the exclusion of others equally important; elaborations of the etiology or treatment of one cause of a symptom leave room for only brief mention of other causes. On the whole, Dr. Meakins has shown good judgment in his choice of subjects to be emphasized. His discussions are good. His style, while occasionally oracular, is conversational and interesting. It is surprising and regrettable that it is also frequently and confusingly ungrammatical. The number of misspelled words seems unusually high.

There are four chapters—about two-fifths of the book—which have been written by collaborators. The work of these authors is written in less interesting but more grammatical fashion.

In spite of the criticism, this is a much better than average book. It is well indexed; the information included is medically accurate; the illustrations are well selected. It can be recommended for the reference shelf of the student or intern as well as for the office of the practitioner.

\* \* \*

**OFFICE MANUAL FOR THE MEDICAL SECRETARY.** By Evangeline Markwick, Ph.D., Instructor in Secretarial and Medical Secretarial Studies, Green Mt. Jr. College, Poultney, Vt.; Agnes Erickson, M.A., Instructor in Secretarial and Medical Secretarial Studies, Colby Jr. College, New London, N. H.; M. Herbert Freeman, Ph.D., Head of Business Education Dept., New Jersey State Teachers College, Paterson, N. J. Gregg Publishing Co., New York, N. Y., 1947. \$2.40.

This book offers a practical solution for many problems of the medical secretary and the girl who is training for this work.

The duties of the clerk, stenographer, receptionist, and laboratory assistant are comprehensively enumerated. The Hippocratic Oath, and the Code of Medical Ethics are given. The necessary financial activities and legal responsibilities are listed. Helpful suggestions are offered for office house-keeping, filing, accounting, editorial assisting, and correspondence.

Four reference sections include: Specialties and Journals, Report on Findings of Research on Duties of Medical Secretaries, Correct Usage for the Medical Secretary, Medical Ethics.

The style of writing of the book is interesting, and the subject matter is comprehensive enough for the book to be used for general reference. In addition, a bibliography is given for technical references.

The information given is of great value because it offers specific, real facts. The authors also trace the development of accepted methods and techniques.

\* \* \*

**PRIMARY ANATOMY.** By H. A. Cates, M.B., Professor of Anatomy, University of Toronto. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1948. \$6.00.

This is a very short book of fundamental anatomy written primarily for nursing students or students of elementary anatomy in the colleges. It would be of little or no value to

a physician or practicing surgeon. This text was written specifically for the students in the ancillary fields of medicine, notably nursing, physiotherapy, and physical education, and presents in a clear and concise fashion anatomy at this level. In this regard it is an excellent work, but would not appeal to physicians because of its utmost simplicity and lack of detailed information essential for clinical utility.

\* \* \*

**AN INTRODUCTION TO CARDIOLOGY.** By Geoffrey Bourne, M.D., Physician, and Physician in Charge of the Cardiological Department, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1949. \$4.50.

This textbook of cardiology has several excellent chapters which reflect an extensive clinical experience. There are several opinions expressed, however, with which many American physicians might disagree. The half page of emphasis placed upon the technique of using Southey's tubes and acupuncture in the elimination of edema, in relation to the several lines given to the use of a low sodium diet, would seem out of proportion to their importance. The acceptance of total thyroidectomy for the treatment of chronic congestive failure and angina pectoris is at variance with the reviewer's experience. Most American cardiologists have discarded this procedure. Several suggestions in treatment are unacceptable. Digitalis is advocated for ventricular paroxysmal tachycardia, a procedure which is generally regarded not only as not beneficial, but usually as hazardous.

There is a delightful discussion, however, upon the clinical forms of angina pectoris and its mimicry by innocent left submammary pain in Chapters XXIX and XXX. This is quite in keeping with the peculiar ability which the good English physician seems to possess in the lucid description of disease.

This book is recommended more because of its individually interesting chapters than because of its value as an up-to-date manual of cardiology for the practicing physician.

\* \* \*

**CARE OF THE SURGICAL PATIENT—Including Pathologic Physiology and Principles of Diagnosis and Treatment.** By Jacob Fine, M.D., Surgeon-in-Chief, Beth Israel Hospital, Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. 8.00.

The book, as its preface indicates, is intended to serve as a ready guide for the over-all care of the surgical patient.

The author has elected to divide the contents into six chapters. The first chapter, entitled "General Considerations," includes useful hints in surgical diagnosis, fluid and electrolyte balance, nutrition, hemorrhage, shock and surgical infections. The second chapter: "Regional and Special Surgery," covers surgical care of specific areas. This chapter covers not only every phase of abdominal and chest surgery but also important points in the care of neurosurgical, orthopedic and otolaryngological patients. The third chapter: "Endocrine Disease and Hormone Therapy," contains excellent coverage of each gland of internal secretion. The fourth chapter: "Coincidental Medical Illnesses in Surgical Patients," covers the anemias, cardiac disease, diabetes, skin disorders and renal disorders. The fifth chapter is devoted to clinical laboratory methods and the last chapter on "General Preoperative and Postoperative Care." There are 40 illustrations.

This book is not intended to cover surgical technique. Reference to technique is made whenever it reflects upon postoperative care. The book is written in an informal, easily understandable manner. It can be well recommended not only for use by the surgeons and surgical residents, but also by the general practitioner and the internist with whom, after all, the burden of pre- and postoperative care is shared by the surgeon.